

REMARKS

By this Amendment claim 4 has been corrected and claims 15-24 withdrawn (non-elected invention).

In the outstanding Office Action the examiner has rejected claims 1-14 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Piper in view of Alexander.

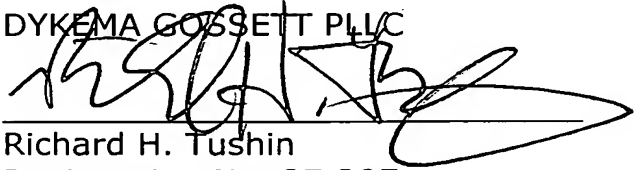
However, the present application is a U.S. national filing of PCT/AT03/000386, filed December 23, 2003, which is prior to the effective date of the Piper patent (June 4, 2004). The English translation of PCT/AT03/000386, filed July 1, 2005, was a verified translation of WO 2004/060506 A1 (WIPO publication of PCT/AT03/000386).

The examiner's prior art rejection should be withdrawn.

Respectfully submitted,

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